



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

Regional Transportation Planning Agency

Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority

Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

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AGENDA ITEM 6b
HCAOG Board Meeting
September 18, 2025

DATE: September 8, 2025
TO: HCAOG Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)
FROM: Brendan Byrd, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Trail Maintenance, Safety, Funding, and Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff's Recommended Action
- Staff Summary

Staff's Recommended Action:

1. Introduce the item as an action item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss item and consider making the motion:

“The PAC recommends that the HCAOG Board consider approving the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to explore possible maintenance and safety funding strategies and explore rules and regulations for local non-motorized trails.”

Summary:

At a TAC meeting earlier in 2025, several TAC members expressed interest in HCAOG staff further exploring maintenance funding strategies for the region's ever-expanding network of commuter trails. Since that meeting, HCAOG staff have had discussions with various county staff, local elected officials, and members of the HCAOG Board. Lastly staff have participated in several follow-up discussions with the Great Redwood Trail Agency, who have indicated they are also interested and eager to explore this topic further with HCAOG and local agencies.

As a result of these discussions, HCAOG staff are proposing the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to explore this issue further. As initially envisioned this committee would meet at a regular interval and work on trail-related issues including identifying maintenance funding sources or advocating for maintenance funding through state budgeting and working with the Great Redwood Trail Agency. Staff presented this concept to the TAC at their September 4th meeting,

and the TAC unanimously supported the formation of the committee. However, staff will note that the TAC does recommend that the committee also be tasked with exploring trail safety-related issues, including possible protocols across jurisdictions for calls-for service on the trail, and the drafting or establishment of commuter trails rules and regulations. Both of these items have been carried forward in this report and are currently included as part of the staff-recommended PAC motion. The final portion of the TAC motion included the volunteers for the committee, which included representatives from the cities of Rio Dell, Eureka and Arcata, along with representatives from the County and Caltrans.

Should the PAC recommend that the Board form the Ad Hoc Committee, staff anticipate initial meetings to begin later in 2025. Currently, the committee is envisioned to meet bimonthly or as certain topics of interest arise, and there is no current end date for convening the Ad Hoc committee (given the time anticipated to work through funding issues). As the committee's work continues, it is likely that future agenda items will be brought back to the TAC and the Board for further discussion.